

# Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Virtual MS TEAMS Meeting

### Attendance

#### Commissioners

HHS Asst. Director Kara Bertke-Wente (A)  
Director Susan Brown, Franklin County Child Support  
Senator Dave Burke (A)  
Senator Hearcel Craig  
Dr. G. Mike Davis, ODRC  
Mr. Joseph Hill, OMHAS  
Mr. James Jackson, ODYS  
Asst. Director Sarah LaTourette (A)  
Dr. Randy Leite, Ohio University  
Rep. Riordan McClain  
Director Scott Neely, Children's Hunger Alliance  
Ms. Molly Rafeld, JFS Legislation  
Director Ann Ream, Summit County  
Dr. Michele Reynolds, GOFBCI  
Rep. J. Todd Smith (A)  
Mr. Socrates Tuch, Esq.  
Rep. Terrence Upchurch (A)  
Rep. Thomas West  
Mr. Tarik White, ODE

#### OCF Staff:

Kimberly Dent, Exec. Director of Ohio Commission on Fatherhood  
Joshua Counciller, Project Manager  
Terri Simons, Admin. Prof. IV

#### Presenters:

State Representative Thomas West, House of Representatives (District 49)  
Mr. Burl Lemon, Director, ForeverDads  
Mrs. Janet Long, Program Manager, ForeverDads  
Mr. Nick Lyons, Program Manager, ForeverDads

## Guests:

Lillian Clossman, Exec. Assistant to Kara Bertke-Wente (HHS Director)  
Margaret Simmons, Leg. Aide to Senator Hearcel Craig  
Adam Gillmor, Legislative Aide to Senator Dave Burke  
Sean McCann, Legislative Aide to State Rep. Thomas West  
Kolin Petty, Leg. Aide, State Rep. Riordan McClain  
Nilani Jawahar, Leg. Aide to State Rep. J. Todd Smith  
Matthew Cunningham, Chief of Bureau of Technical Assistance & Support (for HHS Director Kara Bertke-Wente)  
Wanda Ellis, Deputy Director, Office of Family Assistance  
Scott Pierce, Columbus Urban League  
Cassandra Archie, Advocates for Parents and Children's Excellence  
Latonya Adjei-Tabi, Policy Analyst, Supreme Court of Ohio  
Hannah Knies, Assistant to OFA Deputy Director, Wanda Ellis  
Mariama Diallo, Leg. Aide to Director Susan Brown, Franklin County Supreme Court  
Steve Killpack, OPNFF  
Dr. Brian Moore, Passages  
William Liber, Passages  
Burl Lemon, Director, ForeverDads  
Janet Long, Program Manager, ForeverDads  
Nick Lyons, Program Manager, ForeverDads  
Ray Parnell, National Youth Advocates  
Darryl Graves, (ODRC), Ohio Dept. of Rehab and Corrections  
Deborah Samuels, Grant Writer  
Al Grimes, Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative  
Keith Wollenberg, Action for Children  
Eira Yates, Ohio Guildstone, Asst. Director of Family Support and Paternal Depression Tool  
Warren Brookins, Pathway to Hope Father Services, Hamilton, OH

### I. Call to Order & Welcome

10:00 – 10:05 Chair Scott Neely

Mr. Scott Neely began the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

### II. Introductions/Welcome

10:05-10:10 Chair Scott Neely

Mr. Scott Neely welcomed everyone to the commission meeting and asked the visitors to introduce themselves via the chat. The Commission had a quorum (12).

### III. Approval of February 13, 2020 Minutes

10:10-10:15 Chair Scott Neely

The February 13, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as submitted with no changes. Mr. Socrates Tuch motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Director Susan Brown seconded the motion.

## IV. Voting

10:15-10:20 Chair Scott Neely

Mr. Neely informed the Commissioners that OCF Staff would send the Ballot via e-mail to them from Mr. Joshua Counciller to vote on for three officers (Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary). There will be a link to click on for each one. OCF Staff will tally the votes and provide them to Exec. Director Dent to reveal the new officers. Twelve Commissioners voted for Exec. Committee Members. The newly elected officers: Chair is Mr. Scott Neely, Co-Chair State Representative Thomas West, and new Secretary is Mr. Socrates Tuch.

Exec. Director Dent stated she wants to open the bylaws to change the amount of time the Exec. Committee Officers serve from 1 year to 2 years on the Commission. Mr. Joseph Hill made a motion to open the Bylaws for the November Commission Meeting and State Rep. Thomas West seconded the motion.

## V. State Fatherhood Summit 2020

10:20-10:35 Exec. Director Kimberly Dent and Commissioner Joseph Hill

Director Dent discussed the State Fatherhood Summit which is planned for September 2-3, and 5, 2020. The Committee continues to meet once a month by conference call regarding the planning of the State Fatherhood Summit.

**VENUE:** The Crowne Plaza Hotel Columbus-Worthington has been notified that we have cancelled the venue. **We are going to have a “Virtual” State Fatherhood Summit.**

**AUDIO/VISUAL:** Exec. Director Kimberly Dent selected Bartha for the audio visual. Exec. Director Dent and Mr. Joshua Counciller has spoken to Bartha regarding the Virtual Summit and they said they can assist us with the Virtual Platform called Pathable and it works with the Zoom software as well.

### **DAY 1 – Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020:**

(OPNFF) Ohio Practitioners’ Network for Fathers and Families will offer a three-hour long **Fatherhood Training**. The training will focus on what makes a successful fatherhood program in Ohio and cover the following topics: case management, co-parenting, child support, and men dealing with trauma.

**Fatherhood Grant Writing 4-hour training** for 200+ attendees will be offered. Grant Writer will explain how to successfully apply for fatherhood funding.

There will be a **Virtual Reception to celebrate fathers**. Each OCF grantee program has been asked to bring one to two fathers to the Summit who they feel were impacted by the fatherhood program and have experienced an improvement in their fathering.

**DAY 2- Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020:**

**OPENING REMARKS/PLENARY SESSION UPDATE:**

Exec. Director Dent secured the participation of Jessica and Jerry Seinfeld’s representation from the Good+ Foundation, Dr. Alan Michael Graves.

Director Dent sent a second e-mail to LeBron’s publicist who is also a part of the “I Promise School” Foundation. Basketball season was starting within a month and so Mr. LeBron James unable to do it. Director Ms. Meyers forwarded the request to LeBron’s publicist. No word from the publicist. Please keep Ohio Commission on Fatherhood in mind for a future video at a future Fatherhood event.

**LUNCH TIME KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:** Mr. Chris Brown and Mr. Ken Braswell are the keynote speakers and are confirmed. The Fatherhood and Government plenary session will consist of state department directors and the six legislators who serve on the commission.

**There are eight (8) Breakout Sessions:**

<b>Trauma and Fatherhood</b>	<b>Mental Health and Addiction</b>
<b>County Fatherhood Mobilization</b>	<b>Faith-Based and Fatherhood</b>
<b>Poverty to Self Sufficiency – Child Support Guidelines</b>	<b>Child Protective Services- Engaging Fathers</b>
<b>Infant Mortality Prevention</b>	<b>Incarcerated Parents</b>

**VI. House of Representatives**

10:35-11:05 State Representative Thomas West, District 49

State Representative Thomas West gave a presentation discussing topics that are coming from the General Assembly. He provided information about several House bills and Senate bills that may have a large effect on the Fatherhood Commission. Rep. West discussed how the public health crisis is impacting fathers, children and the community. Rep. West discussed House Bill 609 which will bring in necessary funds (temporary tax funds to the community). Mr. Neely, asked will any of these house bills or senate bills be required to be completed before December? Rep. West said, yes, and said the immunity bill is a hot topic which gives immunity to small businesses who may have contracted COVID-19. Rep. West stated the bill has been moving forward and they may want us to come back to vote on it in late September or October. They also have to approve a bill to hire people to do construction projects. Mr. Neely asked State Rep. West, will the general assembly return back to work before December 2020? Rep. West stated he was not sure if they would return back to work. Rep. West, Exec. Director Dent, Director Howard, Mr. Steve Killpack, did a Facebook Live Fatherhood Chat interview on the Ohio Government Channel. Mr. David Fluellen interviewed Rep. Thomas West and Mr. Stacy Elliott (Ezekiel Elliott’s father) were on a panel to discuss the “The State of the Black Dad,” focuses on eight zip codes in Ohio representing high Infant Mortality rates and the presence of dads. The presentation can be found on the OCF website.

## VII. ForeverDads

11:05-11:40 Mr. Burl Lemon, Director and Mrs. Janet Long and Mr. Nick Lyons, Program Managers

Mr. Burl Lemon shared the mission of ForeverDads which is to empower children, adults and families to live healthy, safe, and productive lives. Mr. Lemon discussed the services that they provide to fathers and children in Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan County. Ms. Janet Long and Mr. Nick Lyons discussed the success stories and the community fathers. Fathers have a different attitude after being partnered with ForeverDads because they see how much assistance they can receive. The fathers have more determination and the culture has changed. Mr. Lyons stated that Ms. Long is the reason for the change in how fathers behave. Mr. Lyons provided the data analysis regarding fathers getting custody of their children. And ForeverDads created satellite centers and treatment centers for fathers. ForeverDads Staff has served 203 fathers in Muskingum County this state fiscal year. There were 112 fathers who attended fatherhood classes. Sixty-three percent of fathers completed the exit surveys and stated they had a better understanding of the fatherhood program. Mr. Lyons stated that 60% of the fathers had felony convictions and they went to their treatment centers for assistance. Ms. Long discussed the success they had with strengthening the relationships with fathers. Ms. Long advised that they were able to build trust and being able to communicate with the fathers who attended their programs. ForeverDads are reaching their outcome goals. ForeverDads presentation and video can be found on the OCF website.

## VIII. Executive Director's Report

11:40 – 11:50 Executive Director Kimberly Dent

Director Dent discussed the Executive Director's Report and highlighted the following topics.

- Funding: NKO – No Kidding Ohio- Teen Parents in Cuyahoga County. NKO-CLE discussed the importance of tracking data regarding the teen parents and the importance of following TANF regulations.
- Dads2B– Mr. David Fluellen, Turnkey. Mr. Fluellen is contracted under ODJFS/OCF to provide services to expectant and new fathers under the Dads2B program which is connected to The Ohio State University's Moms2B Program.
- Train Practitioners – Classes Nurturing Fathers and Love Notes Curriculum (OCF paid for 25 people to attend the training).
- Mahoning County Fatherhood Mobilization Initiative – They completed their County Fatherhood Mobilization and received the \$10,000 seed money. All Metro Counties have fatherhood programs.
- Recovery Ohio Recovery Support group: Exec. Director Dent discussed various strategies assigned to the subcommittee under the charter.
- University of Wisconsin Webinar: Exec. Director Dent presented on policy and grant deliverables.
- Director Hall and Exec. Director Dent had an interview on Tues/Thurs. with the Media discussing OCF Updates and the Governor's Resolution declaring June as Responsible Fatherhood Month, mini-grant father/child activities, and various speaking engagements.
- National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) Policy Forum: Exec. Director Dent went to Washington, D.C. to attend the Federal Office Policy Forum and discussed successful Fatherhood programs.

- Exec. Director presented and attended the International Fatherhood Conference. She spoke on Ohio’s policy changes as well as OCF funded grantee procedure changes during COVID-19.
- Upcoming training: Inside Out Dads Training. Please look for an evite on our website.

To read about the Executive Directors Report, please go to our OCF website.

<b>V.</b>	<b>Announcements and New Business</b>
11:50-12:00	Chair Scott Neely

Director Dent announced that there will be another virtual training by Dibble Institute called “Love Notes” Curricula in August 2020. OCF is paying for 25 people to attend the training. Please visit our OCF Website and look out for the evite invitation. Make sure you are signed up on our OCF Website to get notified of all of the events going on this year.

<b>VI.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>
12:00	Chair Scott Neely

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

The next Virtual Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. - noon.